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**DAVID BOWEN**

# Musgrove likely will win in House, if Parker pushes it



Reader Editorial Board

Both Ronnie Musgrove and Mike Parker are good men.

There's not a lot to separate them, which is what you expect when you have one who spent most of his political life as a Democrat, recently becoming a Republican, and another who is a conservative Democrat.

They're both endorsed by the NRA, both tough on crime and drugs, both anti-abortion and both want to cut taxes, though one wants to pay the bills first and then see how much is left.

Musgrove is closer to the Religious right and is probably more conservative on social and cultural issues.

They both low-key it on race preferences, the biggest single barrier to racial reconciliation, happily being terminated by the federal courts.

## Only one can win

Ronnie Musgrove and Amy Tuck (who got 20,000 more votes than he did in the Nov. 2 General Election) were able to pull together a traditional Democratic coalition, especially a lot of socially conservative (but economically liberal) blue collar, white male, "Reagan Democratic" voters who in recent years have been going Republican.

We know Parker has a more attractive speaking voice than does Musgrove, that he's probably better at shooting pool, fishing and snapping beans, but Musgrove may grow into all of these, perhaps with the help of Parker's Cousin Loretta.

Only one of these two fine men, however, can be sworn in as governor in January.

Given a lead but not a majority for Musgrove in the popular vote (whatever happens with the "electoral" vote) and a 70 percent Democratic majority in the Mississippi House, the odds are overwhelming that Ronnie Musgrove will be our next governor.

Mike Parker says he will not concede because this is a "constitutional battle."

It is not really a constitutional battle at all. The state constitution will be followed no matter what.

It is, instead, a political battle.

Parker hopes he can stay enough